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**To:** Tavlarides, Mark <[mtavlarides@bgrdc.com](mailto:mtavlarides@bgrdc.com)>  
**Subject:** Azerbaijan Update

Good afternoon,

I wanted to bring to your attention a few recent articles and resources.

- A guest commentary by **Azerbaijan's Ambassador to the United States Elin Suleymanov** in the *Monterey Herald* titled "[Hate crimes have no place.](#)" Ambassador Suleymanov calls for celebrating "love, friendship and creativity" in California, not hate, as was present at the July 21 protest against the Azerbaijani Consulate General in Los Angeles, where "some of the 3,000 Armenian protesters attacked a group of a couple-dozen Azerbaijanis, causing injuries that required urgent medical care."
- An August interview with **Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan** by BBC's HARDTalk presenter Stephen Sackur titled "[Peace for Armenia and Azerbaijan?](#)" Sackur noted the mid-July shelling by Armenian forces of villages across the line of conflict. Sackur said to PM Pashinyan, "Your policies do not appear to be designed to achieve peace." He said the Armenian PM has, over months, "taken a series of provocative actions, which have heightened tensions in Nagorno Karabakh." Sackur mentioned the UN General Assembly resolution that demands the immediate withdrawal of all Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. He also noted how PM Pashinyan went to Nagorno Karabakh last year and said, "Artsakh is Armenia. Period." Sackur called it a clear provocation to Azerbaijan and later said, "**You clearly are not a peacemaker.**" Sackur asked the PM if he felt it is "helpful for you to raise the tensions in Nagorno Karabakh with Azerbaijan to take some of the scrutiny and pressure off your government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic because, frankly, looking at the way your government has handled it, it hasn't been a success... Indeed, it has been a real failure of your government."
- An article in the George Mason International Law Journal by Brenda Shaffer and Yael Shaffer titled "[Is Psagot Drinking Alone? Application of the CJEU Psagot Judgement To Other Territories The EU Considers Under Occupation.](#)" The article provides a **case study of Armenia's occupation of and settlement projects in Azerbaijan's territories.** The authors note, "There are many similarities to the Psagot case, including: the EU does not recognize Armenia's sovereignty over Nagorno Karabakh and other territories of Azerbaijan; Armenia has established extensive settlements in these occupied territories of Azerbaijan; and goods produced in the settlements are imported into the EU and marketed in almost all states in the EU." They added, "Not only does Armenia encourage and give financial incentives to people to move into the occupied territories, but Armenia has expelled the Azerbaijani inhabitants from the territory. In addition, for the last two decades, Armenia has not made a diplomatic offer to return any part of the territories." Armenia's settlements produce products whose labels state "Product of Armenia," even though "such labeling could mislead consumers as to their actual country of origin or place of provenance."
- An article in the Jerusalem Post titled "[Azeri Amb.: If Israel nixes annexation, ties with Muslim states to improve.](#)" **Ambassador Suleymanov** said, "In the current situation in which Israel is developing much better relations with the surrounding world, with Muslim nations," the move could be "damaging."

- CBS Los Angeles reported "[Man Wanted In Assault During Armenian Protest at Azerbaijani Consulate.](#)"

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,  
Mark

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